

understand it, and in effect with its wording it would permit to ignore the amount of sales tax that the state would collect and then subsequently refund back to the...to the company, and in effect that sales tax that's refunded becomes identified as, quote, as a state benefit. And that simply is not, of course, in my opinion, is not...is not how it is. I was willing to go to 15...we did 15 years, it was somewhat arbitrary, but it seemed like, based on the kind of comments I'd heard, it was not unreasonable and it was suggested by one of the members of the committee. I was willing to go to 20. I'm told that's not adequate. Bottom line simply is that the numbers apparently doesn't fit what I think happens to be good policy. And the policy that I thought the people of Nebraska were told time and time and time again, and I understood that was the case this time, that if we do these things eventually the state would break even, by the way with no interest on our investment, which is...eventually we would break even. The other side of the argument is while this would never happen, we would never have the funds if the company isn't here. I'll disagree with that. But it's never been portrayed, to me anyway, any differently than eventually the investment that the state made by forgiveness of tax would be recovered, and that was something that I could accept, not be willingly. But from my viewpoint at least one of the reasons that I was willing to support 829, up to this point, was that there was something that I felt was a workable...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...tax-benefit ratio...cost-benefit ratio, and one that at the end would be public, it would develop confidence. But this is not just a simple giveaway program, but it is in fact an investment in which we would recover over time. I feel very strongly that this is essential. I think certainly the public has been told this, in my opinion, time after time after time. And I hope the body would not accept this amendment. It's not double counting, if you look, that's been said to me. As you can see what is laid out here is very plain. The only objection that you could make to what is handed out is if you want to assume that a portion of that tax liability, for some reason or other, justification you want to ignore and say it didn't exist, but in fact it does. And I'd urge the body to reject the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Will.